9/26/74

Dear Harold,

I deliberately waited until classes started and until I felt settled in to write. Well, classes began this past Monday, 9/23 after a 3 day orientation last week. I hope I do not later have to take back these words, but right now my feeling is that this is the place for me. I love it, and think I could have made no better choice as to preparation for a career.

I am very happy with my apartment. It reminds me of your house because of the rustic wood paneling and the large windows, except that it does not compare in terms of noise pollution. The one drawback is that it is acoustiely transparent. Often I have to stuff my ears with tissue to block out even low noise levels. This is a problem in most places around here, and I now learn that I am quite fortunate to have a place at all. The U. over-enrolled by 2000 and there is a terrible housing crunch. Private families are being urged to rent rooms to students, hotels are being rented by quarters, and dorm lounges are being filled with up to 6 students. I was also lucky to get one of the few decent landlords around; his service and his prices cannot be beat.

The "city" is beautiful, in many parts breathtaking (especially when you go past city limits). I am not used to such an immense campus, but I love it (The campus contains 6 ponds, 1 lake with alligators, 2 golf courses, and several acres of farm land, some of which is rented to students). The law school is about 5 minutes from me by bike and is located in one of the nicer parts of the campus, virtually in the woods.

I have met a number of people and have assumed friendships with only a couple. The social adjustment will take some time, but I expect no problems. It is easy to meet gay people here, for there is a gay bar which is the big congregating place for students.

My courses (Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, and Legal Methods) all interest me, but criminal by far the most. I was very pleasantly surprised to find out just how much my previous experience had prepared me for this type of education, and now everything that I am doing seems entirely natural to me and thoroughly enjoyable. The intellectual challange is there, of course, and welcome. I have already begun a pet legal research project, both out of curiosity and as means of gaining practice and familiarity. I wanted to find out about the state of the law and court decisions (esp. most modern) on sex laws involving so-called "crimes against nature".

I feel dangerously remote from the NY-Washington news media elite, so to speak. I can't get the NYT here, and I get a variety of local papers (state) each day, hoping that they will supplement each other. Occassionally they'll carry WP or NYT dispatches. As for TV, I can't afford a cable, and the only news I can get here is ABC, which is really bad. In a way I suppose it helps my analytical abilities, for I must continually KKK attempt to decipher what really happened on the basis of what they say happened. I know this is true KK with every network, but ABC is by far the worst.

All in all I'm very happy here and I think I've made one of the best decisions in my life. You are among those I thank for helping me make that decision. Best, Howard

loneliness, perhaps feeling unfulfilled need. However, I do not believe that with you this will be the reality. In most ways you are quite mature for the years you have spent gaining experience with life. I do expect that once you have settled in and made (what I would expect to be a fairly rapid) adjustement to your new surroundings you will also find and appreciate new friends.

For the period of adjustment it is good that you have work to do on your apt. and for orientation because it keeps you occupied until you are ready to adjust. It is always better for adjustments and maladaptations not to be under pressures. You will be too busy to be too hasty. This will give you time to put it all together and I am certain you'll have no real problems at all, personal, emotional, academic or of any other nature. You may not be willing to anticipate this because you are in the one who had the immediate turmoil but you'll find it is this way. I've been through it and in a close enough approximation of each aspect if not by the same dustance. I think, in fact, that having to make an entirely new start and on your own, entirely on your own, is really very good for you. And again I mean in all ways. It will be quite enriching and it will expand all your concepts, including emotional. And, of course, experiences.

You really are going to find these the best years you've had to date. You'll learn that you have also been under perhaps unrecognized pressures family-related and now gone. They will be a kind of relief you'll welcome. They'll mean a new feeling and reality of more freedom, still again in the fullest sense.

Lil calls for lunch. More later if I've time.

It is the same anti-labor Caddy. I have that in the book, only not the welcome clip you sent and I've not yet read.

I don't know if there is a local underground paper there or if there is if you'll take the time for it. Don't on this score. But if you do and if you see anything on Livingston and the Ray case, don't just get disgusted and throw it away. Let me have it. We are troubled over the wild things he is doing and he just doesn't stop no matter how strongly we address him, and Jim and I have and now Bud is going to.

Best,